



**Spoken  
3/25/13**

**From the Desk of Abdul Shahid Muhammad Ansari**

**President, NAACP Greater Hartford**

**Testimony Submitted OPPOSING SB1146 – An Act Concerning Cross**

**Endorsements**

To the Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the General Elections and Administrations Committee, I testify before you today in representation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in OPPOSITION of SB1146. I read the following statement authored by both our national and statewide presidents, supporting the NAACP's position against this bill.

Statement by Ben Jealous, President of the NAACP, and Scot X. Esdaile President of Connecticut NAACP State Conference

"On behalf of the national NAACP, I want to add my voice to those calling for the rejection of SB 1146 An Act Concerning Cross Endorsements. At the NAACP, we have spent more than a century fighting to advance the voting rights of minorities. The most well-known aspect of that work has been the undoing of the Jim Crow era restrictions that made it impossible for African-Americans to be full citizens. But it hasn't just been about the South. In the last year, as is also well known, the NAACP

fought very hard against voter suppression laws that were aimed at reducing the turnout of lower-income and especially of-color Americans. Fortunately, Connecticut was not one of the states where such misbegotten legislation was advanced. In fact, Connecticut has often led the way in expanding and improving the process of democracy in America.

That is why this particular proposal is such a shock. It is a step backwards. The protection of minority voting rights is not just about ethnic minorities. It also includes political minorities. There is no justification for limiting the rights of citizens who happen to support the ideals of minor parties. No doubt the major parties have the power to do this, but that does not make it right. I call on you to expand democracy, not restrict it, and thus urge that this legislation be rejected."

Connecticut State Conference President Scot X. Esdaile and I stand in strong opposition of this bill. "

Respectfully,

Abdul Shahid Muhammad Ansari,

Greater Hartford NAACP